

BEFORE THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

CONNIE ZANTO,
Charging Party

HRB CASE NO. 0160256

-v-

FINAL AGENCY DECISION

PHILLIPS COUNTY,
Respondent

Charging Party, Connie Zanto (Zanto), filed a complaint with the Department of Labor and Industry (Department) alleging discrimination in employment on the basis of disability and race. Following an informal investigation, the Department determined that a preponderance of the evidence did not support Zanto's allegations that Respondent, Phillips County, discriminated against Zanto. The Department issued a Notice of Dismissal. Zanto filed an objection with the Montana Human Rights Commission (Commission). The Commission considered the matter on November 18, 2016. No oral argument was requested for this hearing.

The Commission reviews a decision of the Department to dismiss a complaint using an abuse of discretion standard. *Section 49-2-511(2), MCA*. After careful consideration, the Commission concludes the determination of the Department to dismiss the complaint in this case is not an abuse of discretion.

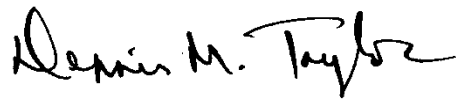
If a charging party chooses to commence a civil action in district court, the charging party has 90 days after the date this order is issued to file a complaint in district court, in the district where the alleged violation occurred, and seek appropriate relief. *Section 49-2-511(3)(a), MCA*. If a charging party fails to commence a civil action within 90 days, the claims are time barred. *Id.*

Alternatively, a party may ask a district court to review the decision of the Commission to affirm the dismissal of a complaint. *Sections 2-4-702 and 49-2-511(3)(b), MCA*. This review must be requested within 30 days of the date of this order. A party must promptly serve copies of

a petition for judicial review upon the Human Rights Commission and all parties of record.
Section 2-4-702(2), MCA.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Connie Zanto's objection is **overruled**. The Commission affirms the determination of the Human Rights Bureau to dismiss the complaint against Phillips County.

DATED this 23rd day of November, 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dennis M. Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Dennis" is written with a large, prominent "D". The middle initial "M." is written in a smaller, more compact script. The last name "Taylor" is written with a large, prominent "T" and a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Dennis M. Taylor, Chair
Human Rights Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned secretary for the Human Rights Commission certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing ORDER was mailed to the following by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, on this 23rd day of November, 2016.

CONNIE ZANTO
14 SOUTH 6TH STREET EAST
MALTA, MT 59538

GREGORY L. BONILLA
MACO DEFENSE SERVICES
2717 SKYWAY DRIVE, SUITE F
HELENA, MT 59602-1213

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annah Howard".

Annah Howard, Legal Secretary
Montana Human Rights Bureau